

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301427

FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

THE FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 301427 SENT ACTION ABIDJAN ACCRA  
ADDIS ALGIERS AMMAN ANKARA ASUNCION BAMAKO BANGKOK BLANTYRE  
BOGOTA BRASILIA BRIDGETOWN BUENOS AIRES CAIRO CARACAS COLOMBO  
CONAKRY COTONOU DACCA DAKAR DAMASCUS DAR ES SALAAM FREETOWN  
GABORONE GEORGETOWN GUATEMALA ISLAMABAD JAKARTA  
JIDDA KABUL KATHMANDU KIGALI KINGSTON KINSHASA KUALA LUMPUR  
LAGOS LAPAZ LIBREVILLE LIMA LOME LOURENCO MARQUES LUSAKA  
MANAGUA MANILA MASERU MBABANE MEXICO MONROVIA MONTEVIDEO  
NAIROBI NDJAMENA NEW DELHI NIAMEY NOUAKCHOTT QUAGADOUGOU  
PANAMA PORT AU PRINCE PORT LOUIS PORT MORESBY PORT OF SPAIN  
QUITO RABAT RANGOON SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR SANA SANTIAGO  
SANTO DOMINGO SEOUL SINGAPORE SUVA TAIPEI TANANARIVE TEGUCI-  
GALPA TEHRAN TRIPOLI TUNIS YAOUNDE BANGUI WITH INFO TO BONN  
COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LONDON OSLO OTTAWA PARIS STOCKHOLM  
TOKYO USUN NEW YORK GENEVA DTD 23 DEC.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP

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SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH

FOR UNITED STATES SECURITY AND OVERSEAS INTERESTS

REF: STATE 297241

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON POPULATION  
POLICY (ITFPP)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESIDENTIAL DECISION (REFTEL),  
THE ITFPP IS NOW UNDERTAKING A FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF  
WORLD POPULATION SITUATION AND PROSPECTS AND AN EVALU-  
ATION OF OUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS AND  
INTERNATIONAL GROUPS. WE AIM TO PREPARE BY MAY A  
REQUIRED INITIAL ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR  
NEW POPULATION POLICY AND ON-GOING PROGRAMS WITH RECOM-  
MENDATIONS ON ANY MODIFICATIONS IN OUR STRATEGY, ON  
FUTURE FUNDING LEVELS, AND ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF  
POSSIBLE DEFICIENCIES.

2. AS A FIRST STEP IN COMPLYING WITH THE DIRECTIVE, WE  
PROPOSE TO EXAMINE POPULATION ISSUES FROM TWO DISTINCT  
BUT INTERRELATED VIEWPOINTS--(1) FROM A GLOBAL PERSPEC-  
TIVE AND (2) FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EACH OF THE

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE POPULATION GROWTH HAS SIGNIFI-  
CANCE TO OUR POLICIES AND INTERESTS. IT IS FELT THAT THE  
INITIAL ASSESSMENT FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE CAN BEST BE  
PREPARED IN WASHINGTON, WHEREAS THE INITIAL COUNTRY  
ASSESSMENTS CAN BE BEST PREPARED BY ADDRESSEE POSTS.

3. WE ARE, THEREFORE, REQUESTING THAT EACH ADDRESSEE  
AMBASSADOR, WITH ASSISTANCE OF HIS COUNTRY TEAM, CAREFULLY  
REVIEW POPULATION DEVELOPMENTS IN HOST COUNTRY AND PROVIDE  
EVALUATIONS BY AIRGRAM TO BE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON NO  
LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 1976. WE APPRECIATE THAT CERTAIN  
MISSIONS HAVE ALREADY COVERED SOME OF THESE POINTS IN  
EARLIER REPORTS. HOWEVER, A FRESH, WORLDWIDE LOOK AT THE  
PROBLEM IS NOW NEEDED, AND WE REQUEST THAT YOUR RESPONSES  
NOT RPT NOT REFER TO EARLIER REPORTS BUT REMAIN WITHIN THE  
FRAMEWORK AND ORDER OF THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AS OUTLINED  
IN PARA. 4 BELOW.

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4. YOUR REPLY SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE FOLLOWING:  
A. HOST COUNTRY'S BASIC POPULATION POLICY, INCLUDING  
ATTITUDES OF NATIONAL LEADERS, THEIR VIGOR OR OTHERWISE IN  
ENUNCIATING AND CARRYING OUT POPULATION POLICIES, TOGETHER  
WITH POLITICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC FACTORS AND NATIONAL  
ATTITUDES TENDING TO PROMOTE OR OBSTRUCT PROGRESS IN THE  
EXECUTION OF EFFECTIVE POPULATION PROGRAMS.

B. YOUR FRANK ASSESSMENT OF HOST COUNTRY'S POPULATION PROGRAM IN TERMS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS IN PROMOTING FERTILITY DECLINE. IN CASE OF COUNTRIES WHERE U.S. IS GIVING AID TO POPULATION ACTIVITIES, WE WELCOME COMMENTS ON THOSE PROGRAMS WHICH DESERVE OUR INCREASED SUPPORT AND ON THOSE THAT ARE LESS EFFICIENT, JUSTIFYING DECREASED SUPPORT OR TERMINATION OF SUPPORT.

C. IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ON NEEDS FOR FOOD IMPORTS, AND EFFECT OF MOUNTING CONSUMPTION ON DOMESTIC SAVINGS, INVESTMENT AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

D. IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E.G., ON EMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, BOTH RURAL AND URBAN; ON MIGRATION TO CITIES AND CITIES' ABILITY TO PROVIDE SOCIAL SERVICES AND OTHERWISE COPE WITH SWOLLEN URBAN POPULATION).

E. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH (OVERCROPPING, EROSION, OVERGRAZING; POPULATION GROWTH AS FACTOR IN "NATURAL" DISASTERS SUCH AS FLOOD AND DROUGHT; POLLUTION AND ITS EFFECTS).

F. POSSIBLE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF ANTICIPATED POPULATION GROWTH (E.G., WILL IT IMPINGE ON RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES, FOSTER LAWLESSNESS, UNREST AND EXTREMISM, ACCELERATE TENDENCIES TOWARDS AUTHORITARIANISM, ETC.?).

G. HOW BEST CAN WE COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (UNFPA, IBRD, WHO, ETC.) AND WITH OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN

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COORDINATED SUPPORT OF REALISTIC POPULATION PROGRAMS OF HOST COUNTRY? WHERE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE BILATERAL PROGRAMS, HOW BEST CAN WE RENDER ASSISTANCE? WHERE DONOR GROUP CONSORTIA EXIST, OFTEN HEADED BY IBRD, CAN SUCH AN ORGANIZATION BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING POPULATION PROGRAMS AS INTEGRAL PART OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

5. PLEASE ANSWER TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, RECOGNIZING THAT INFORMATION IS OFTEN LACKING. WE DO NEED YOUR FRANK AND CAREFUL ASSESSMENT RESPONSIVE TO THE QUESTIONS POSED ABOVE AS WELL AS YOUR CONTINUING SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNITED STATES ACTIONS IN POPULATION FIELD. LOOKING AHEAD, OUR EFFORTS MUST BE INCREASINGLY

DIRECTED TOWARDS THE BIG POPULATION COUNTRIES  
(ESPECIALLY THE 13 MENTIONED IN REFTEL), BUT WE MUST  
ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POPULATION GROWTH PROBLEMS  
WORLD-WIDE IN ORDER TO ESTIMATE THEIR IMPACT UPON OUR  
INTERESTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

6. WE URGE THAT YOU TAKE A DIRECT HAND NOT ONLY IN  
PREPARING RESPONSES TO THIS MESSAGE BUT ALSO IN GIVING  
PERSONAL DIRECTION TO OVERSEEING AND COORDINATING  
COUNTRY TEAM STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN SUPPORT OF  
PRESIDENTIAL POLICY OUTLINED IN REFTEL. WE WILL  
PARTICULARLY WELCOME ANY INITIATIVES YOU OR MEMBERS OF  
YOUR MISSION CAN TAKE TO PROMOTE REFTEL POLICY. WE  
WILL BE CIRCULATING FROM TIME TO TIME INFORMATION  
MATERIALS AS WELL AS EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL FIELD  
INITIATIVES THAT MAY HAVE WIDER RELEVANCY, THOUGH WE ARE  
EVER MINDFUL THAT YOU ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO JUDGE  
HOW POLICIES CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT IN  
YOUR COUNTRY. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE

ROBINSON

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